

ABSTRACT

This qualitative research was conducted to determine the students' experiences while studying during the global Covid-19 crisis at Capiz State University -Mambusao Satellite College, Poblacion, Mambusao, Capiz for the school year 2020-2021. More precisely, it sought to find answers to the following problems: (1) What are the struggles and difficulties participants encountered during this pandemic and (2) What are the coping mechanisms employed by the participants? The participants of this study were five (5) selected students from CAPSU-MSU. Open-ended questionnaire was used as the data gathering instrument to determine the students' experiences while studying during the global COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was also conducted to expand and to better understand the answers of the participants. The data were coded based on the emerging themes that occurred in the analysis. The major findings of this study based on the results were: Participants answered that stress in studies, lack of interaction with peers and teachers, lack of willingness in learning, difficulty to focus due to some distractions such as background noises and obligations at home, as well as the new mode of learning are some of what they encountered while studying at the time of global COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite these negative experiences, participants also expressed positive experiences during the pandemic as they still participate in school activities as well as they develop a sense of responsibility not just for their academic endeavors but also their relationship with family. Participants mentioned that poor internet connectivity and lack of personal gadgets, no guidance while studying, anxiety, workloads, learning environment, transportation, togetherness and time management were the struggles and difficulties they experienced while studying during the coVID-19 crisis. The participants expressed that the major differences in studying before and during the pandemic. There are interactive discussions and enough attention during pre-pandemic but participant received lack of attention and feedback from their instructors while studying at the time of pandemic. Most of the participants answered that comfortable learning environment (schools/institutions) promotes meaningful learning experiences. But in an uncomfortable environment, they find that it's hard to focus due to background noises and distractions like their obligations at home. Majority of the participants said that their family and friends help them with their academic endeavor by being reliable and supportive in their studies likewise their source of comfort and inspiration. The participants indicated that the institution gives consideration through printed modules for those students' who cannot access online. But on the other hand, the participants also said that they are hesitant and doubtful to approach their instructors for some questions or clarifications. Furthermore, in order for them to cope with all the difficulties they encountered, participants mentioned that acceptance of the situation is a big help in overcoming all of it. They also said that self- trust and proper mind-set helps them to slowly believe that they will overcome it. Lastly, with all of these experiences, participants indicated that trusting God is their greatest weapon to face and overcome all of these difficult experiences.